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## Letters About Literature Contest Prepares for 2014

Charleston, WV. Letters About Literature, a project of the West Virginia Center for the Book, is a reading and writing contest for students in grades 4-12. Students are asked to read a book, poem or speech and write to that author (living or dead) about how the book affected them personally. Letters are judged on state and national levels. Tens of thousands of students from across the country enter Letters About Literature each year.

Letters About Literature awards prizes on both the state and national levels. A panel of West Virginia judges will select the top essayists in our state. State Winners will receive a cash award and advance to the national level judging. A panel of national judges for the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress will select one National Winner per competition level to receive a \$1,000 cash award. The judges will also select one National Honor winner per competition level to receive a \$200 cash award.

In West Virginia, the deadline for Level One (grades 4-6) and Level Two (grades 7 & 8) is January 10, 2014. The Level Three (grades 9-12) deadline is December 10, 2013. <u>Contest Rules and Guidelines</u> are available online at the Library of Congress.

The awards ceremony is scheduled for May 27, 2014, at the West Virginia Culture Center in Charleston, WV.

The West Virginia Center for the Book was established in 2001 as an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress. It is hosted by the West Virginia Library Commission in partnership with the West Virginia Humanities Council.

The West Virginia Library Commission serves the people of West Virginia and encourages lifelong learning, individual empowerment, civic engagement and an enriched quality of life by enhancing library and information services for all West Virginians. Find more information at www.librarycommission.wv.gov.

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